

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
655 Parfet Street, Room E200C
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

AUG 15 2007

State Technical Committee Members

Re: Fiscal Year 2008 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Call For Proposals

Dear Committee Members:

For Fiscal Year 2008, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado will focus the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) funding on larger scale habitat developments that achieve the WHIP program goal of enhancing and protecting habitats for wildlife species experiencing significant population declines. We are asking for written proposals from wildlife agencies and organizations, agricultural and environment organizations, Conservation Districts, and other appropriate partners for specific project areas that will target specific habitats and wildlife species. Applications will be accepted for non-priority species and/or habitats but will be given a lower priority for funding.

Proposals that leverage NRCS and partner in-kind and/or financial resources to address WHIP priorities will be particularly attractive for funding. Please note that a Federal contract will be developed with the individual eligible landowners to implement all WHIP agreements within funded project areas.

We acknowledge that at the time of this letter the WHIP program has not yet been re-authorized beyond Fiscal Year 2007 by the U.S. Congress. In the event WHIP is not extended, we plan to fund high ranking proposals through other available authorized Farm Bill conservation programs, such as an Environmental Quality Incentives Program Wildlife Special Initiative.

Proposals should address and describe all factors of the evaluation criteria. The local NRCS District Conservationist must be consulted and co-sign the proposal package. **Proposals in either electronic or hard copy format are due at the NRCS State Office by close of business Friday November 2, 2007.**

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Electronic proposal submissions are encouraged. Send electronic submissions to:
colakewood.nrcsprogram@co.usda.gov .

Or, send mailed hard copies to:

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
655 Parfet Street, Room E200C
Lakewood, CO 80215
Attn: Tim Carney

The enclosed document lists the steps, the priority species and habitats, and the criteria that will be used to rank the proposals.

Once a proposal is selected for funding, the sponsor and the District Conservationist must develop a ranking system for the project.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Tim Carney, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs at 720-544-2805 or by mail at the address above.

Sincerely,



CATHEE WILSON
Acting State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: Tim Carney, ASTC-P, NRCS, Lakewood, CO
Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, Grand Junction, CO
Cindy Lair, Conservation Board Program Manager, CSCB, Lakewood, CO
Dollie Gonzales, RC-P, NRCS, Lakewood, CO
Terri Skadeland, Biologist, NRCS, Lakewood, CO
Ken Morgan, Farm Bill/PCL/CHIP Coordinator, CDOW, Lakewood, CO.
Bill Noonan, Biologist, USFWS, Lakewood, CO
Colorado NRCS Area Conservationists
Colorado NRCS District Conservationists
Colorado Area Resource Conservationists-Programs
Colorado Watershed Network Private Lands Watershed Biologists